

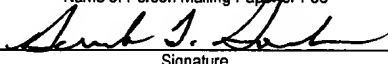


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re

U.S. application of: Akira TSUBOUCHI, Kiyoshi OKUBO,  
and Yasushi WATANABE  
For: HOLLOW RACK SHAFT AND  
MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF  
U.S. Serial No.: To Be Assigned  
Filed: Concurrently  
Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned  
Examiner: To Be Assigned

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Assistant Director  
for Patents  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NO.: EL 794575138 US DATE OF DEPOSIT: NOVEMBER 27, 2001 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to BOX PATENT APPLICATION, Assistant Director for Patents, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA. 22202.  DERRICK T. GORDON _____ Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee   _____ Signature  November 27, 2001 _____ Date of Signature
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Dear Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants wish to bring the following items to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of each document is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

No representation is made, and no representation is intended, that more relevant material does not exist, or that the order of presentation of this material in any way reflects its relative pertinence.

The references cited below are not intended to constitute an admission of any kind. Specifically, this presentation is not an admission that the items listed below are properly citable against the above-identified application.

The following documents are cited in the specification of the application:

- (1) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 11-180318 (NIPPON SEIKO KK), published July 6, 1999; and
- (2) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 11-278287 (FUJI KIKO CO LTD), published October 12, 1999.

Applicants would also like to bring the following documents to the attention of the Examiner:


- (3) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 58-218339 (DAIDO STEEL CO LTD), published December 19, 1983;
- (4) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 05-345231 (SUMIMOTO METAL IND LTD), published December 27, 1993; and
- (5) Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. (A) 06-246379 (TUBE FORMING:KK), published September 6, 1994.

Applicants consider the invention to be distinguishable over the above-cited documents.

Attorney Docket No. 18733/00070

As this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the application, no fee is incurred. However, if it should be determined that a fee is required, please charge any required fee (other than the issue fee) during the pendency of this application to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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November 27, 2001